

OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL
Twenty-Second Street & Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City
Oklahoma
Oklahoma

HALS OK-34
OK-34

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL

HALS NO. OK-34

Location: 22nd Street & Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.
Lat: 35.49436 Long: -97.5028

Significance: Since its completion in 1917, the Oklahoma State Capitol Complex has served as the center of politics and governmental affairs for the State of Oklahoma. The building was designed by the Oklahoma City based architectural firm Layton and Smith, while the site plan for the capitol complex was prepared by city planner George Kessler of St. Louis, Missouri. The site is a designated Oklahoma Landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

History: Consultant from St. Louis, Missouri was responsible for the eighty acre site plan that included the capitol building as its center piece. The capitol building was designed by the Oklahoma City architectural firm Layton and Smith and constructed by the James Stewart Company. The six-story Beaux Arts-styled building was made of locally quarried granite and limestone along with concrete. Laid out in the form of a cross, the building's north-south porticoes align with Lincoln Boulevard which divides and encircles the capitol.

The building was originally constructed without a dome due to a shortage in funding of the \$1.5 million project, but structurally the design allowed for the addition of a dome at a later date. Eighty-five years later, at a cost of \$20.8 million, the dome was finally completed and topped with "The Guardian," a seventeen-foot-tall bronze statue of a Native American holding a twenty-two-foot-long spear.

The grounds were redesigned in the early 1960s by landscape architect Robert H. Rucker. The site presently contains twenty-five miles of curbs and sidewalks, 2.5 acres of planting beds, 65,000 annual plants, and 2190 trees. Again, in 1990, the site was redesigned by Joe Braun, landscape architect and owner of the Jacob Braun Company of Oklahoma City. The site also contains two significant monuments. One a tribute to Native Americans called "As Long As the Waters Flow." It was designed by Native American artist Allan Houser. The other monument was called "A Bronze Tribute to the Romantic Riders of the Range" and was designed by Constance Whitney Warren, an artist of the American West.

Sources: "Oklahoma State Capitol,"
<http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/shpo/nhrpdfs/76001572.pdf> (accessed November 15, 2009)

"Oklahoma State Capitol Complex," <http://www.westernlawns.com/oklahoma-state-capitol-complex> (accessed November 15, 2009).

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Aerial view of Oklahoma State Capitol complex (Encyclopedia of Oklahoma:
<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/O/OK080.html>, accessed
November 15, 2009).



View of statue on grounds called "As Long As the Waters Flow" (Western Lawns:
<http://www.westernlawns.com/oklahoma-state-capitol-complex>, accessed November 15,
2009).